

MINUTES
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission Conference Call
Helena Headquarters
1420 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana
April 12, 2002

Commission Members Present: Dan Walker, Chairman; Tim Mulligan, Vice-Chairman; Darlyne Dascher.

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Staff: Jeff Hagener, Director; Larry Peterman, Chief of Field Operations; Don Childress, Wildlife Division Administrator; Ron Aasheim, Conservation Education Division Administrator; Doug Denler, Acting Administrator, Admin. & Finance Division; Barney Benkelman, Info. Technology Bureau Chief.

Topic of Discussion: Extension of Deadline to Purchase Spring Black Bear License.

Commission Chairman Dan Walker called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Jeff Hagener said there have been some problems for a couple of days with the Automated Licensing System (ALS) not working, and clerks have been unable to issue licenses on the system. What makes it troublesome is that spring turkey season opens tomorrow and the spring black bear on Monday, April 15. The deadline to purchase that spring black bear license is April 14. What the department proposes to do is extend that deadline from April 14 to April 21, giving hunters another week to purchase the spring black bear license.

Commissioner Darlyne Dascher said she had no problem with doing that. This certainly is not the fault of the hunters.

Barney Benkelman said the problem occurred with the overall system going down and they are trying to sort out what happened. In the meantime, the licenses are being issued by hand. **Commissioner Tim Mulligan** asked if it was overload on the system caused it. **Hagener** said there is an interruption occurring within the system and it may be problems within the computer itself. **Benkelman** said it doesn't seem to be any one factor; there may be 3-5. **Mulligan** asked if it would take awhile to correct the problem. **Benkelman** said he doesn't think so, but it is difficult to tell until the specifics of the problems are known. ITSD has issued a purchase order to get four new processors, which they hope to have in place by next Tuesday. **Mulligan** asked if there will be any problems with lost data. **Benkelman** responded that he didn't think so. **Dascher** asked what will happen with the hand-issued licenses. Will that information be entered by hand into the system when it is working? **Benkelman** said, "Yes."

Action: Commissioner Mulligan moved approval of the department recommendation to extend the deadline for purchasing a 2002 Spring Black Bear License to April 21. ***Commissioner Dascher*** seconded the motion. ***The motion carried.***

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Approved this 18th day of April, 2002.

Dan L. Walker, Chairman

M. Jeff Hagener, Director